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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/625,493	07/25/2000	Morio Gaku	2000-1033A	6721

7590 02/27/2002

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EXAMINER

PIERCE, JEREMY R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1771

3

DATE MAILED: 02/27/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

21-2 AS

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/625,493

Applicant(s)

GAKU ET AL.

Examiner

Jeremy R. Pierce

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 July 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: In the preamble, the Applicant cites, "A copper-clad laminate of a highly-elastic glass fabric base material/thermosetting resin." This wording is confusing. The Examiner suggests changing it to, "A copper-clad laminate of a highly-elastic glass fabric/thermosetting resin base material..."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 cites "a highly-elastic glass fabric base material/thermosetting resin". It is unclear what is meant by "highly-elastic" because glass fabric material is generally not known in the art to be elastic. Additionally, the term "highly" is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "highly" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. Claims 2-5 are rejected because of their dependency upon claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Ishii et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,368,921).

Ishii et al. provide a metal foil-clad laminate obtained by lamination molding a resin-impregnated substrate and a metal foil (column 2, lines 22-24). The substrate can be a woven glass fabric with a preferred thickness of 0.05 to 0.2 millimeters (column 2, lines 57-66). Ishii et al. do not specifically provide a weight for the woven glass fabric. However, the weight range of 15 to 165 g/m² cited by the Applicant is very common in the art of printed circuit substrates, and most likely inherent to the material disclosed by Ishii et al. Alternatively, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use a woven glass material with a basis weight between 15 and 165 g/m² in order to gain the properties that are optimal in a printed circuit board, such as being lightweight and rigid.

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Ishii et al. also do not specifically mention the gas permeability of the glass fabric. However, a gas permeability of 1 to 20 cm³/cm²/sec would be inherent to the woven glass material supplied by Ishii et al. With regard to claim 2, the thermosetting resin is blended with inorganic filler in the amount of from 10 to 45% by weight of based on the total amount of the resin solid or from 5 to 30% by weight of the substrate (column 4, lines 6-19). With regard to claim 3, Ishii et al. disclose the prepeg to have 55% weight of resin solid and inorganic filler in his examples (column 5, line 7). Therefore, the glass content of the prepeg must be 45% by weight, which falls within the Applicant's claimed range of 25 to 70% by weight. With regard to claim 4, with the disclosed substrate thickness of 0.05 to 0.2 millimeters disclosed (column 2, lines 57-66), the thickness of the copper-clad laminate would inherently fall into the Applicant's claimed range of 0.03 to 0.15 millimeter upon typical impregnation of the resin and when typical copper foil is clad on the outside of it. With regard to claim 5, Ishii et al. disclose using a cyanate ester resin as the thermosetting resin used to impregnate the substrate (column 3, lines 16-18).

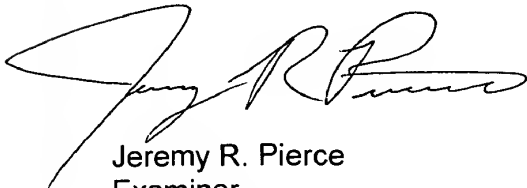
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeremy R. Pierce whose telephone number is (703) 605-4243. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7-4:30 and alternate Fridays 7-4.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on (703) 308-2414. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.



Jeremy R. Pierce
Examiner
Art Unit 1771



TERREL MORRIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

February 14, 2002